UNCANNY INHUMANS™ 11

Thousands of years ago aliens experimented on cave men, super-charging their evolution, and then mysteriously left their experiments behind. These men and women built the City of Attilan and discovered a chemical called Terrigen that unlocked secret super-powers in their modified DNA, making them...

THE UNCANNY INHUMANS

MEDUSA

ISO

KARNAK

CRYSTAL

GRID

A young Inhuman named Ulysses seems to have the power to see events from the future. Using one of his predictions, the world's greatest heroes teamed up and stopped a being of cosmic power from destroying the Earth. Using another of his predictions, a mission to defeat Thanos went terribly wrong. Already suspicious of Ulysses' powers, the fallout from this second mission pushed Tony Stark, A.K.A. Iron Man, over the edge: he invaded New Attilan and kidnapped Ulysses. Everyone is watching the leader of the Inhumans to see how she'll respond—her reaction could spark a war.

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STARK TOWER.
BEFORE THE WAR.
LOYALTY IS A FUNNY THING. THERE ONE MINUTE...
WE WILL...
...RETREAT.
...AND GONE THE NEXT.

IT'S ABOUT TRUST.

THANK YOU, MEDUSA.

I KNOW WHAT STARK DID TO YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE, AND HE'LL PAY THE PRICE FOR IT, BUT NOT HERE. NOT NOW.

WHILE MR. STARK WOULD SURELY BE HONORED TO HAVE SO MANY LUMINARIES VISITING HIM ALL AT ONCE, THIS BUILDING IS PRIVATE PROPERTY.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO SKEDADDLE BEFORE HIS SECURITY TEAMS GET H--

→BZZK←

SHH.

WHEN YOU GIVE YOUR LOYALTY TO SOMEONE ELSE, YOU'RE TRUSTING THAT THE DECISIONS THEY MAKE ARE BETTER THAN THE ONES YOU WOULD MAKE IN THE SAME SITUATION.

WE DIDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO FIGHT YOU.

IT'S RIGHT THAT THEY CALL IT *GIVING* YOUR LOYALTY.

OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T, CAROL.

YOU'RE GIVING AWAY PART OF YOURSELF.

WE WILL *RETREAT?* YOUR MAJESTY, THE HONOR OF OUR *NATION* IS AT STAKE. NOT TO MENTION THAT STARK KIDNAPPED AN INHUMAN WHO CAME TO US FOR *SANCTUARY.*

WE *MUST* RESPOND, MEDUSA!

KARNAK...

YOU'RE LETTING THEM BE THE PARENT.

...NOT IN FRONT OF THE *HUMANS.*

AND YOU'RE THE *CHILD.*

NEW ATTILAN.
CAPITAL CITY OF THE INHUMANS.
SOVEREIGN STATE. INVIOLABLE.
BUT YOU'RE NOT A CHILD.
ALL RIGHT, MEDUSA, WE HAVE RETURNED HOME.
NOW WILL YOU EXPLAIN WHY YOU ALLOWED STARK'S ACT OF WAR TO GO UNCHALLENGED?
YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN UP YOUR ABILITY TO THINK.
ENOUGH, KARNAK. DID YOU LEAVE YOUR SENSE OF RESPECT BEHIND WHEN YOU RETURNED FROM THE DEAD?
NO, TRITON. BUT YOU KNOW MY ABILITY. I SENSE WEAKNESS. I KNOW HOW QUICKLY STRENGTH CAN TURN TO FRAILTY.
DO YOU THINK WORD OF WHAT JUST HAPPENED WON'T SPREAD? WE HAVE ENEMIES EVERYWHERE, AND THEY JUST SAW US BACK DOWN.
I WANT TO UNDERSTAND.
OH, KARNAK.
HAVE FAITH.
IT ONLY TAKES ONE MISTAKE BEFORE YOU START TO WONDER WHY, EXACTLY, YOU'RE LETTING SOMEONE ELSE MAKE YOUR DECISIONS.

WE HAVE SEEN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN POWERS BATTLE IN THE MIDST OF A CITY. IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTAIN.
THINGS SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL. DAMAGE IS DONE. PROPERTY IS DESTROYED. BUILDINGS FALL.
PEOPLE ARE TERRIFIED. THEY DON'T KNOW THE WHY OF THE BATTLE. THEY KNOW ONLY THAT THE WOMAN WITH LIVING HAIR THEY'VE SEEN ON TELEVISION IS FIGHTING ANOTHER GROUP OF COSTUMED GODS.
THEY JUST SEE THE END RESULT: THEIR CITY HAS BEEN HURT. THEIR WORKPLACE IS DESTROYED. OR PERHAPS THEIR HOME. OR, THE MISTS FORBID... SOMEONE THEY LOVE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A DISASTER. WE MIGHT HAVE LOST THE HUMANS' TRUST, AFTER WORKING SO HARD TO EARN IT.
YES, CRYSTAL. BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN I WILL ALLOW STARK'S ACT TO GO UNPUNISHED.
FAR FROM IT.
KARNAK AND ISO. YOU ARE MY GREAT THINKERS. YOU WILL ANALYZE EVERY PART OF STARK'S LIFE.
HIS MONEY. HIS SECRETS. HIS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES, HIDDEN AND OTHERWISE. THE THINGS HE LOVES.
AND THEN YOU WILL CREATE A PLAN BY WHICH WE WILL TAKE THEM AWAY.

I CAN HELP WITH THAT. STARK HAD TO KEEP HIS SECURITY MEASURES FOR STARK TOWER ON FILE WITH THE CITY. I SAW THE LIST ONCE WHEN I WAS WORKING A CASE WITH THE NYPD.
PROBABLY WASN'T EVERYTHING HE HAS IN THERE, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
WE DON'T JUST HAVE TO HIT STARK TOWER, FRANK. IT'S A HUGE, INTERNATIONAL OPERATION. TONS OF TARGETS.
NO. TONY STARK ACTED ALONE WHEN HE CROSSED OUR BORDERS AND STOLE ONE OF OUR PEOPLE.
DESTROYING HIS CORPORATION WOULD HURT THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HE EMPLOYS, DISRUPT THE WORLD ECONOMY, POSSIBLY EARN US MORE ENEMIES.
WE MUST BE SURGICAL. PRECISE.
TONY STARK--*HIMSELF*--MUST LEARN THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANGERING THE INHUMANS.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT HIS *BUSINESS.*
IT'S *PERSONAL.*
I WILL BEGIN TO COORDINATE WITH CAPTAIN MARVEL AND HER TEAM TO GET OUR MISSING INHUMAN BACK. THE REST OF YOU...
...GET TO WORK.

AND SO WE DID.
EVERY PART OF TONY STARK'S LIFE WAS ANALYZED, DISSECTED. IT WAS EASY.
STARK'S BIGGEST WEAKNESS BECAME APPARENT VERY QUICKLY.
HE DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD *PRIVATE.*
HE LIVES HIS LIFE IN *PUBLIC.* IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE'S *DARING* PEOPLE TO ATTACK HIM.
HE ASSUMES HIS GENIUS--THE *WEAPONS* HE DESIGNS--THE WEAPON HE'S MADE HIMSELF INTO--IS ALL THE PROTECTION HE'LL EVER NEED.
HE IS SO WRONG.
TONY STARK IS IMPRESSIVE. SO IS HIS SUIT. BUT HE'S ONE MAN.
WE ARE A *NATION.*

AND EVERY ONE OF US IS A WEAPON.
SOME OF US ARE GOOD AT OFFENSE. INFERNO IS A ONE-MAN VOLCANO. AND BLACK BOLT... HE'S ESSENTIALLY ALL THE VOLCANOES.
TO THE OFFICE, PLEASE, DEREK. AS QUICK AS YOU CAN. MR. STARK WANTS TO FINALIZE AN ACQUISITION BY THE END OF THE DAY.
OF COURSE, SIR.
IT'S JUST A SMALL SEMICONDUCTOR COMPANY OUT OF KUALA LUMPUR, BUT BIG OR SMALL, IT'S ALWAYS AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF WORK FOR HIS BANKING AND LEGAL TEAMS.
AND IT ALWAYS NEEDS TO BE DONE BY THE END OF THE--
--WAIT, DEREK. YOU'VE GONE THE WRONG WAY.
HAVE A GOOD DAY, MR. BOARDMAN.
THANK YOU, NORRIS. I ALWAYS DO.
730
SOME OF US ARE BETTER AT DEFENSE. STERILON'S OUR BEST TELEPATH, AND HE CAN CREATE A PSYCHIC SHIELD A NUCLEAR MISSILE COULDN'T PENETRATE.
NO, MR. BOARDMAN.
AND THEN...
...WE HAVE OUR INFILTRATORS.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHERE WE NEED TO BE.
LIKE MOSAIC.

HE USED TO BE A PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYER, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE THAT.
BUT THEN THE TERRIGEN CLOUD HIT HIM, AND HE CHANGED. HE GOT POWERS.
MOSAIC CAN ENTER THE BODY OF ANYONE--ANYONE--TAKE CONTROL OF THEM, AND OBTAIN THEIR SKILLS AND MEMORIES.
THEY PASS OUT FOR A BIT ONCE HE LEAVES, BUT HE RETAINS SOME OF THOSE ABILITIES FOR A WHILE. IT'S REALLY INCREDIBLE.
EVEN BETTER THAN BASKETBALL.
MR. BOARDMAN, I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO COMPLETE A TRANSFER OF ALL OF MR. STARK'S PERSONAL FUNDS TO A NUMBERED ACCOUNT IN THE CAYMANS.
DID HE AUTHORIZE THIS? WE HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT, AND IT'S--
HEY.
WHOSE NAME IS ON THE DOOR OF THIS OFFICE?
WELL... YOURS, MR. BOARDMAN. YOU'RE THE BOSS.
EXECUTE FUNDS TRANSFER
SUBMIT
EXACTLY.
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
CLICK

COME ON...
HOW'S IT GOING, GRID?
IT'S...TOUGH, CRYSTAL. STARK'S DATA SECURITY IS INTENSE.
MY POWERS USUALLY LET ME SLICE THROUGH MOST ENCRYPTION LIKE IT'S NOT EVEN THERE. BUT THIS...
NNGH!
...IT'S LIKE IT'S FIGHTING ME. STARK'S AI, THIS FRIDAY CREATION-- IT'S GOOD. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

BUT I'M BETTER.
GAH!
SZZZK
DAMN.
I'M IN. STARK'S PERSONAL DATABASE. EVERY EMAIL HE'S EVER SENT. MY GOD, HE'S DATED A LOT OF MODELS.
SOME OF THE THINGS HE SAID TO THEM. FILTHY. AND THE...THE PICTURES HE SENT THEM. I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO HERE.
ANYWAY, I'VE GOT IT ALL. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO WITH IT?
EVERYTHING.

STARK VEHICLE STORAGE WAREHOUSE #9.

UNAUTHORIZED INCURSION!

SZZACK

ANALYZING THREAT LEVEL.

INTRUDER IDENTIFIED AS LOCKJAW. AFFILIATION: INHUMANS.

TELEPORTATION ABILITIES.

SUBJECT HAS ARRIVED ALONE. THREAT ASSESSMENT-- MINIMAL.

KLNK

EXPLOSIVE DEVICES DETECTED! EMPLOY COUNTERMEASURES! EMPLOY COUNT--

SZZACK

THOR

SIR.
LET ME GUESS, FRIDAY-- MORE GOOD NEWS.
YUP. WAREHOUSE #9 JUST WENT OFF-LINE.
OFF-LINE... LIKE ITS INTERNET WENT OUT? OR OFF-LINE LIKE IT BLEW UP?
THE SECOND ONE.
UGH.
THE SENTRIES AT THE WAREHOUSE REPORTED SEEING LOCKJAW BEFORE THEY, AH, BLEW UP.
INHUMANS, THEN. AGAIN.
DO YOU WANT ME TO START DRAWING UP A RESPONSE PLAN, TONY? WE CAN HAVE A COUNTER-ATTACK IN MOTION WITHIN AN HOUR.

NO. MEDUSA'S BEING VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT THIS. NO STARK TOWER. NOTHING AFFILIATED WITH THE COMPANY.
SHE'S ONLY HITTING TARGETS THAT MATTER TO *ME*. AND LET'S FACE IT...
...I STOLE ULYSSES RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER THEM--AFTER MEDUSA PROMISED TO KEEP HIM SAFE.
I PROBABLY HAD THIS COMING.
NO COUNTERATTACK. SEND A TRANSMISSION TO MEDUSA--HER PRIVATE LINE. TWO WORDS: *MESSAGE RECEIVED*. MAYBE IT'LL END THERE. BUT EVEN IF IT DOESN'T--
--WE PROBABLY HAVE BIGGER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.

IT ALL WORKED INCREDIBLY WELL.
BUT I SAT THERE, AND I WATCHED IT ALL HAPPEN, AND I WONDERED...*DID* HE REALLY CARE?
STARK'S HOMES, HIS MONEY, HIS TOYS, HIS RELATIONSHIPS, ALL GONE IN ONE FELL SWOOP.
IT WAS A THING OF BEAUTY, REALLY. WE TOOK AWAY EVERYTHING HE CARED ABOUT.
TONY STARK IS A BASTARD, BUT HE'S ALSO A GENIUS. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE PEOPLE WILLING TO BUY HIS IDEAS.
HE'LL HAVE ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD AGAIN BEFORE TOO LONG, AND THEN HE'LL BE RIGHT BACK WHERE HE WAS... BUT HE'LL KNOW SOMETHING HE DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE.
STARK SEXT SCANDAL
HE'LL KNOW THE INHUMANS HAVE LIMITS. HE'LL KNOW THERE ARE PLACES THEY WON'T GO. HE'LL KNOW THEY ARE ***WEAK.***
MISS WATSON! YOU'RE WORKING AS TONY STARK'S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT--DID ***YOU*** KNOW ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE LEAKED EMAILS?
NO COMMENT.
BUT--
I SAID NO COMMENT!
AND I FIND THAT VERY HARD TO TAKE.

IT DOESN'T TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU THINK.
I'VE BEEN ONE OF MEDUSA'S STAUNCHEST SUPPORTERS FOR *YEARS.*
TAXI
I'VE BEEN RIGHT THERE WITH HER THROUGH EVERY DECISION, EVEN WHEN I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THEM.
IT WASN'T MY *PLACE* TO UNDERSTAND THEM. I'M A WARRIOR.
A LOYAL SOLDIER.
BEER
AND THEN THIS...THIS *THING* WITH STARK...AND I REALIZED THAT I HAVEN'T AGREED WITH MEDUSA'S CHOICES FOR A WHILE NOW.
TONY STARK--AND ALL OUR OTHER ENEMIES AND POTENTIAL ENEMIES--THEY NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN YOU HIT US, WE WILL HIT YOU BACK *TEN* TIMES AS HARD.
A *HUNDRED* TIMES. WE WILL GO *TOO FAR.*
THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW. WE HAVE NO CHOICE. IT HAS TO HAPPEN NOW.
AND WHEN I THOUGHT OF SOMEONE WHO TAKES THINGS TOO FAR...

...MAXIMUS THE MAKER WAS THE FIRST NAME THAT CAME TO MIND.
WELL, TRITON, I HAVE TO SAY, THIS IS ALL JUST *FASCINATING.* I'M SURE I CAN HELP.
BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO BE WORKING TOGETHER, THERE'S *ONE* THING YOU SHOULD KNOW...
...MY FRIENDS CALL ME MAXIMUS THE *MAD.*

STARK
MY QUEEN. THE ATTACK ON STARK IS COMPLETE. ALL OBJECTIVES WERE ACHIEVED.
THANK YOU, KARNAK. I KNOW YOU DID NOT AGREE WITH THIS APPROACH, BUT THERE IS A LARGER GAME AFOOT.
STARK
FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, OUR RACE LIVED IN ISOLATION IN OLD ATTILAN, AND THE OPINION OF THE LARGER WORLD WAS IRRELEVANT.
IF IT WERE STILL THAT WAY, THEN STARK WOULD BE ROTTING IN OUR DUNGEON, AND THAT TOWER WOULD BE NOTHING BUT RUBBLE.
BUT NOW, MORE OF US APPEAR EVERY DAY, ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND SO WE MUST LIVE AS PART OF IT.
THE HUMANS' OPINION OF US ***MATTERS,*** AND NOT JUST THEIR AVENGERS AND ULTIMATES AND SO ON.
IF WE ACT LIKE MONSTERS, THEN THE HUMANS WILL ***TREAT*** US LIKE MONSTERS--US AS WELL AS THOSE INHUMANS OUT IN THE WIDER WORLD WHOM WE CANNOT SO EASILY DEFEND.
AND THAT, MY OLD FRIEND, IS WHY THAT TOWER IS STILL--

STARK
KRRRMBLE
--STANDING.
TO BE CONTINUED...

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS *NEXT?*

THE UNCANNY INHUMANS #12